

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 723

By Trail

A RESOLUTION to recognize and celebrate "Foster Care Month" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2003, Governor Phil Bredesen proclaimed May as "Foster Care Month" in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, it is proper that this General Assembly join with Governor Bredesen and the citizens of the State of Tennessee in honoring and celebrating "Foster Care Month" and saluting those professionals involved in the foster care system, including juvenile justice officials, foster parents, and foster children; and

WHEREAS, at the end of 2003, the Department of Children's Services had 10,218 children in custody, many of whom were placed with the State's 6,500 foster approved parents; and

WHEREAS, foster care is a temporary service until the family and, in some cases, the child can address the problems that made placement necessary; and

WHEREAS, during Foster Care Month, the Department of Children's Services will strive to educate the public about the foster care program and recruit additional families to serve as foster parents; and

WHEREAS, playing an extremely vital role in the lives of foster children, foster parents provide a safe and stable environment for children removed from their biological families, ensuring that the children's emotional, physical, and social needs are met; and

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2003, the Department of Children's Services responded to 35,607 reports of child abuse and neglect, with 97.5 investigations being initiated on average each day; and

WHEREAS, the children of today will be the leaders of tomorrow; it is a duty incumbent on this Legislative Body to honor and commend those departments and individuals who work so



selflessly to provide a safe and secure haven for those children tragically separated from their biological families; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join with Governor Phil Bredesen and the citizens of the State of Tennessee in recognizing and celebrating the month of May as Foster Care Month, paying special tribute to the Department of Children's Services and its employees, foster families, and those children placed in foster homes throughout the State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.